

PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

(Looking after the Churches of St Gabriel's, Bexley, St Joseph's, Rockdale, and St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR B - 6 & 7 JANUARY 2024

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Parish Priest – Fr Norvin Dias



PARISH OFFICE: 13 Parker St, Rockdale 2216.

Phone: 9567 1558

Parish website: www.mmrc.org.au

Email: admin@mmrc.org.au

Office Staff: Ms Fransiska Widjaja and Mrs Monica Chappell

Office hours: Monday to Friday: 9am to 1pm (please phone before coming in.)

Italian Chaplain: Fr Adriano Pittarello: 8068 1595

SCHOOLS:

St Joseph's Primary, Rockdale: 9599 2541 - Principal: Ms Carolyn Yeats

St Francis Xavier's Primary, Arncliffe: 9567 5389 – Principal: Ms Debbie Heckenberg

St Gabriel's Primary, Bexley: 9502 1932 - Principal: Ms Catherine Hodgins

	ARNCLIFFE	ROCKDALE	BEXLEY
WEEKEND MASSES	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
Saturday Vigil	9.00am	9.00am (<i>Italian</i>)	9.00am
Sunday Masses		10.30am	5.00pm
		6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	
WEEKDAY MASSES	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday (<i>Devotions, Exposition, Benediction & Rosary from 5.30pm</i>) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday (<i>Benediction at 8.45am</i>)
CONFESSIONS	4.00 – 4.30pm 2 nd & 4 th Saturday of the Month	5.30 – 6.00pm 1 st & 3 rd Saturday of the Month	8.00 – 8.40am Saturday
BAPTISMS	10.00am 1 st Sunday of the month	11.30am 2 nd Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 rd Sunday of the month
	Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.		
WEDDINGS	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 st Reading: <i>Is 60:1-6</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Eph 3:2-3.5-6</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 2:1-12</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 71:1-2.7-8.10-13

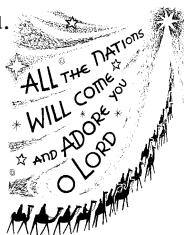
Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. *R/*

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. *R/*

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. *R/*

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. *R/*



GABBIES SEWING ANGELS

You may have read last month that 2023 was the most successful year to date for Gabbies!! Amazingly they produced and distributed 10,006 articles. For any parishioners who still get The Leader, there was an article on Thursday, 14th December, the NSW State Premier, Mr Chris Minns, took time from his busy schedule to visit the group at work in the Bexley Parish Hall and is quoted in The Leader as saying...

"I would like to acknowledge and celebrate Ms Patricia Will, for her commitment and dedication to Gabbies Sewing Angels and more importantly to her local community.


"Without fuss or grandiosity, Patricia and her team of volunteers produce over 8,000 clothing items each year.

"Whenever she can, Ms Will looks to her local community and other places to grow the organisation and let people know there is a welcome place for them should they like to share or learn sewing skills.

"I would like to thank Ms Will and express my deepest appreciation for the wonderful work that Gabbies does for our local community".



Congratulations to Pat and all those who help her!
If anyone interested in joining Gabbies Sewing Angels please contact Patricia Will on 0421 771 868.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all those who prepared our churches, liturgies and music for the celebration of Christmas in our three churches. I think we can agree that they were beautiful occasions of prayer and praise for our God. It was particularly wonderful with regard to the music and singing. Much work goes on behind the scenes and we should be grateful for the generous efforts of so many who arranged flowers, decorated the churches, read at the Masses or attended as Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Thank you to the children from our parishes who so beautifully re-enacted the first Christmas with the Christmas Gospel at the Vigil Masses. We also thank those who only attend a few times a year; it was wonderful to have you join in with the celebrations.



Many thanks to those who gave generously to the annual Christmas Appeal. These donations are remitted to a central fund caring for the needs of priests and deacons of the Archdiocese. We have many priests that work in special areas, such as the seminary, chaplaincies, military chaplains and other agencies as well as in parishes that are unable to financially meet the needs of their priests.

Thank you also to those who gave some lovely Christmas gifts to Fr Norvin and me.

Fr Yacub

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

As we enter the summer season, we kindly remind you to dress modestly when attending Church. While our dress code is not as strict as the Vatican's, your cooperation in maintaining a respectful atmosphere during worship is highly appreciated.

Please kindly refrain from wearing attire that is more suitable for the gym or the beach. We kindly ask that you avoid low-cut clothing and belly crop tops. When it comes to pants or skirts, low-cut short pants or skirts are not encouraged. However, slightly above the knee length is still acceptable, provided they are decent and uphold a sense of reverence. This is particularly important if you are an Acolyte or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

Men and boys are also asked to remove caps and beanies before entering the church in a sign of respect to the Blessed Sacrament.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in upholding a respectful environment during the church services.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL THANK YOU

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society extend thanks to all those who were able to contribute to the recent Christmas Appeal. There are many people in our local community who struggle over Christmas so on their behalf I thank you for your generosity.



GEORGE CARDINAL PELL AC ONE YEAR MEMORIAL MASS

All are welcome to attend the Mass and pray at Cardinal Pell's tomb in the crypt this coming **Wednesday, 10 January** at 5:30 pm in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA

Lord, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers, grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH EILEEN O'CONNOR, SERVANT OF GOD

Mass to mark the Anniversary a Mass will be held this **Wednesday 10 January**, at 10.00am in St Brigid's Church, cnr Brook and Waltham Streets, Coogee with Bishop Emeritus Terry Brady as celebrant. Following the Mass, you are invited to morning tea in the parish hall. There will then be an opportunity for private prayer at Eileen's tomb in Dudley Street, Coogee. All are welcome.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Final bishop ordained for NZ
- Formation series succeeds in making faith stick

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. You can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or equiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

COVID REMINDER

- Masks are still recommended in churches, as Covid is still very much in our local community.
- Please do not come to Mass if you are Positive for Covid, unwell or even if you just have a sore throat or a simple cold.
- When preparing to receive Holy Communion, parishioners are asked to go seat by seat to enable distancing from others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space before joining the queue.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We have a number of parishioners who are suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses, and we ask that you please keep them all in your prayers.

RECENTLY DECEASED: George Masih, Ronald Fitzgerald and Fr Bill Aliprandi.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mushtaq Barkat, Collin McKeon, Thomas Yeats Frederick Higham, Miriam Shields, Lawrence Mack, Mary Nohra, Josephine Chand, Bonaventura Giovenco, Concetta Graziano, John Bridges, Edward Noble, Harold Seers, Audrey Bran, Dynah Mines, Michael Rogers, Antonia Festa, George & Hanna Raffoul, and Gary Shipton

We especially remember those for whom Masses have been requested, those in our Memorial Books and all our deceased relatives, friends, parishioners and benefactors. May they all rest in peace. Amen

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"Put kind constructions where you can, and where you cannot, be silent." 15.11.1878



REMINDER: PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE AS YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.